



No. 384	Author Craig A. Albright, Deer Management Biologist	Date 7/9/87
	Title 1986 Deer-Vehicle Accidents	

Accident reports, compiled by the Indiana State Police, are analyzed annually to monitor trends in the number of deer-vehicle accidents. A total of 7,543 deer-vehicle accidents was recorded during 1986. This figure was 49% greater than during 1985 and 59% greater than during 1984. Compared to 1985, the number of accidents was up substantially (23 to 65%) in all deer management zones (Table 1, Figure 1). Zone 4 (central Indiana) has exhibited the largest increase in accidents since 1984, climbing 103% in a 2-year period.

The 5 counties having the largest number of accidents were Elkhart (302), Steuben (273), Kosciusko (249), Allen (235), and Noble (193). These 5 counties had the largest number of accidents in 1984 and 1985 as well. All of these counties are located in northeastern Indiana.

The continued increase in the number of deer-vehicle accidents in Indiana is likely attributable to a growing deer herd, and perhaps an increase in traffic volume. Trends in numbers of deer-vehicle accidents are examined annually when adjusting deer harvest regulations.

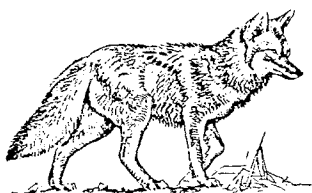


Table 1. Number of deer-vehicle accidents occurring in Indiana deer management zones during 1984-1986. Data are from accident reports compiled by the Indiana State Police.

Zone	1984	% change 1984-85	1985	% change 1985-86	1986
1-NE	1,111	0	1,107	+44	1,595
2-NW	730	-1	720	+65	1,186
3-EC	451	+10	494	+49	735
4-C	724	+28	925	+59	1,473
5-SE	397	+7	424	+23	523
6-SC	865	-2	844	+48	1,245
7-SW	475	+13	539	+46	786
Totals	4,753	+6	5,053	+49	7,543

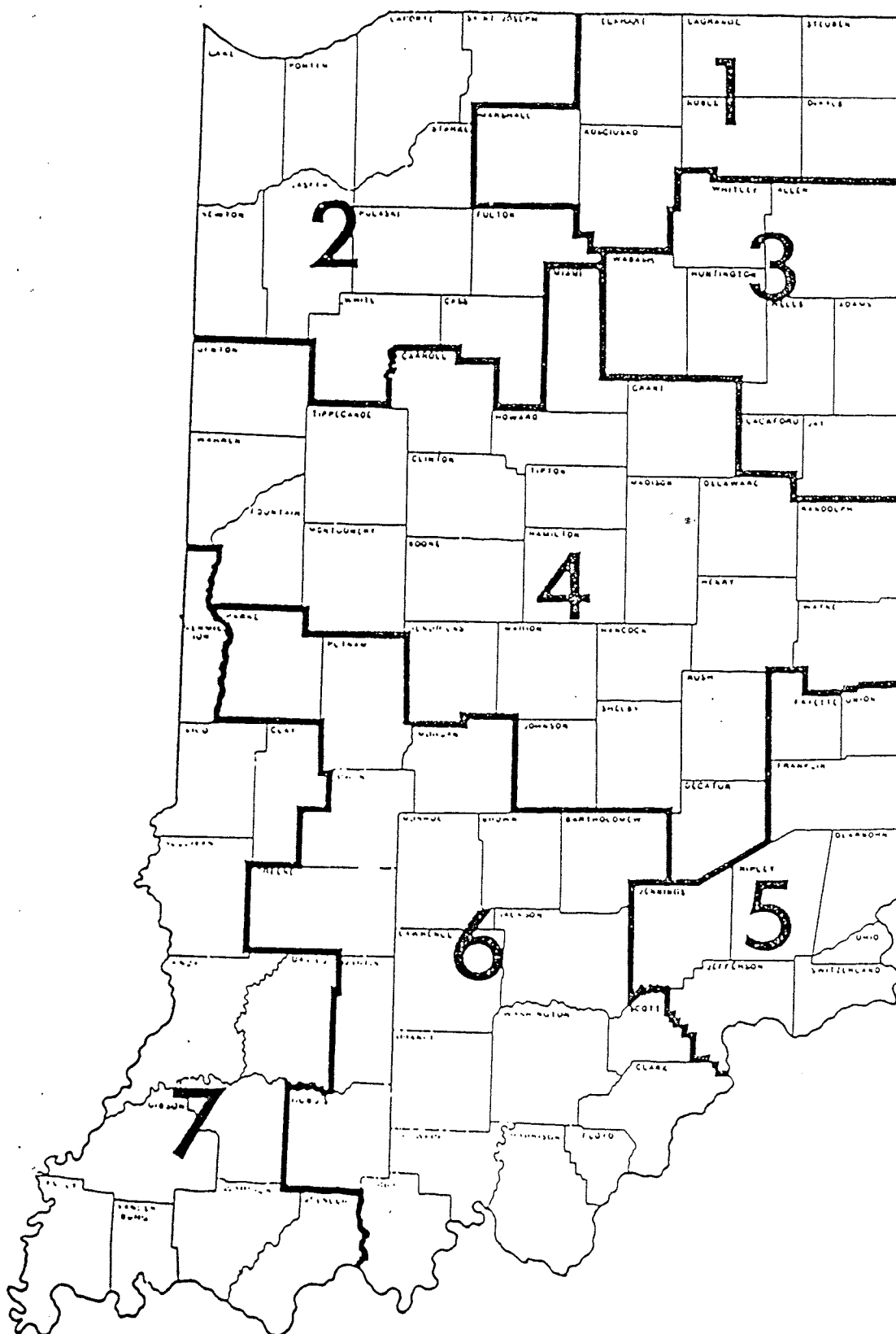


Fig. 1. Deer management zones in Indiana.